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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUHME/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 6921  
INFO RUHME/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 5653  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 5455  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY GENEVA 1505  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9141  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 4212  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY PESHAWAR 7752  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7631  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY NEW YORK 4159  
RUHME/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 5404  
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Z.C. 12365: CDE, 8/23/85 (COON, JANE A.), NEA

TAGS: GREF, SHUM, PEPR, AF, US, PK

SUBJECT: (C) AFGHAN REFUGEE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

REFS: (A) ISLAMABAD 8335, (B) GENEVA 13234

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THANKS TO COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING FROM EMBASSY AND CONSULATE PESHAWAR, DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE OF GROWING PROBLEMS FACED BY GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN (GOP) IN CARING FOR INCREASING NUMBERS OF AFGHAN REFUGEES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT GOP HAS BEEN EXPLORING WITH THE UNHCR... WAYS IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HELP THOSE REFUGEES, WHICH BY SOME ACCOUNTS NOW TOTAL 150,000 TO 200,000. WE REALIZE THAT THERE ARE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED ON THE PART OF ALL CONCERNED PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE PAKISTANIS, AFGHANS AND THE SOVIETS.

3. FOR OUR PART, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A HUMANITARIAN CONCERN IN FEELING THAT ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED TO THOSE REFUGEES AND WE THINK THIS EFFORT SHOULD BE AN INTERNATIONAL ONE. WE WOULD LIKE THE UNHCR TO MOVE MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY TOWARD INITIATING A PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE. NATURALLY, WHATEVER IS UNDERTAKEN MUST MEET WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOP.

4. DEPTOFF RON DAVIDSON (S/R) WILL BE IN GENEVA THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3 AND PLANS TO CONSULT WITH UNHCR ON THE AFGHAN REFUGEE QUESTION. HIS VISIT WILL BE EXPLORATORY. AND HE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION REGARDING UNHCR'S ESTIMATE OF THE NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES. SINCE USG HAS FUNDING LIMITATIONS, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TOLD THAT A UNHCR APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IS LIKELY.

5. SO THAT DAVIDSON HAS AS MUCH BACKGROUND AS POSSIBLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUMMARIZING THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO YOU AND YOUR VIEWS ON SEVERAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING: (A) WHAT ARE CONDITIONS REALLY LIKE FOR THE REFUGEES? (B) HOW MANY ARE IN REFUGEE CAMPS AS OPPOSED TO TRIBAL VILLAGES AND NOMADIC TENT CAMPS? (C) WHAT HARDSHIPS DO THE REFUGEES FACE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE VERY PRIMITIVE LIVES THEY HAVE TRADITIONALLY LED? (D) HOW WILL THE ONSET OF WINTER WEATHER AFFECT THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS? (E) HOW MUCH OF A FINANCIAL BURDEN IS THE CARE OF THE REFUGEES FOR THE GOP? (F) WHAT ARE LIKELY TO BE GOP ATTITUDES TOWARD PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION (PVO) INVOLVEMENT IN ASSISTING THE REFUGEES, INCLUDING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY AMERICANS IN THEIR ACTIVITIES? (G) SHOULD WE CONSIDER ASKING THE GOP WHETHER THEY BELIEVE WE CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN FOCUSING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM? AND (H) SHOULD U.S. PERSONNEL IN PAKISTAN CONTINUE TO AVOID VISITS TO THE

REFUGEE AREAS WHICH WE HAVE THOUGHT UNWISE BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OUR MOTIVES COULD BE MISINTERPRETED?

6. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE PRIOR TO AUGUST 31 AND SLUG IT FOR DAVIDSON IN VIENNA AND GENEVA.

7. FOR KABUL: WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF DRA VIEWS TOWARD POSSIBLE UNHCR ASSISTANCE TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN AS WELL AS TOWARD OUR PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN STIMULATING THE UNHCR TO THIS END.

8. FOR MOSCOW: WE WONDER WHAT ATTITUDE THE SOVIETS WILL TAKE TOWARD A UNHCR ROLE IN THIS SITUATION. IS MOSCOW LIKELY ACTIVELY TO OPPOSE UNHCR INVOLVEMENT?

9. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INVITED FROM ALL ADDRESSEES. CHRISTOPHER

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